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A CARPENTER'S WORLD IDEA.

From the carpenter's bench great good has come to the world. There is something in the occupation that engenders serious enterprise. The carpenter is trained in accuracy. He is constructive in habit and, if he is a good man, he becomes constructive in thought. He builds. And often when he cultivates his mind and takes care of his body he builds more important things than houses, says the Saturday Evening Post.

Mr. Randall Cremer is an English carpenter. Years ago he took the broad view of life and opportunity. He was elected to parliament. He saw the good of representative government and he conceived a plan for a larger representation that would represent the governments themselves in one great body. He converted a few men to his way of thinking and launched the idea upon the world. For more than a month this year the result of all this has been filling hundreds of columns in the American newspapers. The Interparliamentary Congress, with delegates from all of the enlightened countries of the earth, came on invitation of the United States, traveled on special trains, saw the world's fair, and reached a really splendid climax in a request to the president that he summon a second international conference to complete the work of The Hague tribunal and to bring the future of humanity under the majesty of the law.

It reads almost like a story--this development of the carpenter's idea. But here is the fact of the president's call for the congress. Five years have passed since the other meeting at The Hague and we have had war in plenty; yet in spite of it progress has been made, and progress has also made new problems for the consideration of the wise men of the world: What is contraband in war? What military restrictions shall be placed on wireless telegraphy? What shall be done with ships seeking neutral ports? Shall the dropping of explosives from balloons and flying machines be permitted? Invention and improvement will provide other topics--more than enough for the ablest and busiest men.

But it is a fine thing that an idea in these material days can thrive so beautifully and come to blossom so quickly.

ELECTION FORECASTS.

According to the New York Herald's election estimate, Parker will carry New York city by 133,000 plurality; according to the Brooklyn Eagle's, he will carry it by 180,000 plurality; while in the judgment of the Tribune his plurality in the American metropolis will be about 62,000.

Governor Odell, chairman of the state republican central committee, predicts that Roosevelt will have a plurality of 100,000 in the state at large, and Cord Meyer, chairman of the state democratic committee, appears to be equally confident that Parker will have a plurality of 50,000. Most of these forecasts assume that Herrick, the democratic candidate for governor, will run somewhat ahead of Parker, and that Higgins, his republican opponent, will run somewhat behind Roosevelt.

The same wide divergence of opinion is shown in forecasts of the result in the electoral college. The republican managers "claim" pretty much every state outside of the "solid south," while the democratic managers "claim" every southern state and practically every so-called doubtful state.

It does not follow that the newspapers mentioned have not made an earnest and fair attempt to gauge the numerical strength of the republican and democratic tickets. Campaign managers are proverbially prone to take a rosy view of their party's election prospects, and probably many of them believe that the figures they put forth are well founded.

The vast disparity in the foregoing forecasts, provided they are the result of careful investigation, show at any rate that somebody is going to be greatly disappointed on election night. However, such forecasts constitute a harmless sort of diversion.

AN ESTIMATE OF CZAR NICHOLAS.

In an article contributed to the November number of the Century Magazine, Andrew D. White, minister plenipotentiary of this country to St. Pe-

tersburg from 1892 to 1894, delivers himself of a scathing arraignment of Russia's bureaucratic government and the weak and vacillating czar at its head. After passing in review the several features of reactionary policy that characterize the despotism of the czar's ministers, Mr. White fixes upon the oppression of Finland as the most terrible example of the power of autocratic rule and charges Nicholas himself with responsibility for the outrage.

The policy of the ruling nobles in the realm, so forcefully exemplified by the ruthless treading down of the liberties of Russia's most progressive people, is due to an absolute indifference to, even antagonism against, all influences of enlightened government, as White shows; but in the case of Nicholas, this medievalism, set with equal stubbornness in his character, is strengthened by an utter indifference to the needs of his people, a stolid ignorance of all conditions affected by his rule. "He knows nothing of his empire or of his people," writes White; "he never goes out of his house if he can help it."

In the light of this intimate estimate of Nicholas' character it is now easier to understand why General Stoessel is ordered to throw away every life in Port Arthur before surrendering, why General Kuropatkin receives imperative orders to advance against a superior foe at the beginning of a hard Manchurian winter, why the pitifully inadequate Baltic fleet is sent blundering to the east. Can Russia achieve any measure of her destiny under the hand of this bigoted incompetent?

THE TREATY WITH FRANCE.

Delcasse's move for a treaty of arbitration with the United States was brought to a successful close yesterday when the treaty was signed and now awaits the ratification of the senate of the United States, says the Examiner. Our first war was with France. It was the irony of history that the troops under Washington and Rochambeau, who brought down the British flag at Yorktown, were in ten years being marshaled for a fight against one another. Washington came from retirement to command the American forces that were to fight the French and on sea there were several collisions. Peace, however, was brought about and there was nothing to mar the good will between the two nations until the days of our own death struggle with one another, when Napoleon III sought to establish the empire of Mexico under the suzerainty of France.

There are few possible points of dispute between France and America. The memory of the services France rendered America in the revolution should prevent a resort to arms, but it is an inspiring example to other nations of the world that the great republic of the west and the great republic of Europe have resolved that all matters of difference that may come between them shall be settled in courts of arbitration rather than by a resort to arms.

It is distressing to learn that "everything which science can suggest" is being done to keep the little heir to the throne of the Czars in health and strength. Evidently nature is to have a hard time of it, and will score one of her greatest triumphs if by chance this baby should escape alive from the solicitude of doctors and nurses. And doubtless his parents appreciate his danger. There was until recently on one of the thrones of Europe a prince who was blind in one eye. To treat his good eye he called in the greatest oculist in Europe. The oculist, agitated by the fact that he was operating on a sovereign, destroyed the sight completely--and, when he realized what he had done, went into the next room and killed himself. It is with fear and trembling that a person of rank in Europe puts himself into the hands of a doctor or dentist or nurse even; for he knows that if he escapes the Scylla of trembling snobbishness he is like to wreck upon the Charybdis of overzeal.

General Grosvenor, who figured out the result so closely in 1896 and 1900, has made public his estimate for 1904, and it is equally satisfactory to republicans, though some of the more sanguine of the latter may be inclined to place the electoral majority for Roosevelt and Fairbanks higher than that claimed by the Ohio political prophet. However, we shall all, including General Grosvenor, know more about it on November 9.

The subway can carry 600,000 passengers a day at present, and can, if necessary, within a month double its present equipment. This begins to look as though the strap hangers will have a chance to give their arms a much needed rest.

Governor Dyer, of Guam, says the public schools of that island will soon be open for the education of 230 native children. This is another instance of that reckless "extravagance" which Judge Parker condemns.

Those topedoboats may have been eral, but Rojstvensky's story has a fishy look. If there were real Japanese boats after his fleet, the admiral probably would have had something to "regret to report" about.

P. A. Stokes

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Notice of Primary Election.

Notice is hereby given that a primary election for the republican party will be held in the city of Astoria, Oregon, Saturday, November 5, 1904, between the hours of 12 m. and 5 p. m. of said day, for the purpose of electing thirty-six (36) delegates to a republican city convention, hereinafter designated, which said delegates are apportioned as follows, to-wit:

- First Ward--12 delegates.
 - Second Ward--12 delegates.
 - Third Ward--12 delegates.
- The following polling places and judges for said primary election have been selected:
- First Ward--Polling place, courthouse; judges of election, S. G. Trullinger, P. J. Goodman, J. A. Montgomery.
 - Second Ward--Polling place, office of C. E. Foster, 694 Commercial street; judges of election, James W. Welch, C. E. Foster and B. A. Elgner.
 - Third Ward--Polling place, office of Astoria Box Company; judges of election, Gust Holmes, Iver Anderson, W. T. Schofield.
- Furthermore, notice is hereby given that a republican city convention will be held at the court house in the city

of Astoria, Oregon, on Wednesday, November 9, 1904, at the hour of 2 p. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following city offices to be elected at the city election on Wednesday, December 14, 1904:

- One city attorney, for a term of two years.
 - One councilman from the Second ward, for a term of three years.
 - One councilman from the Third ward, for a term of three years.
- By order of the republican city central committee.
 HARRISON ALLEN, Chairman.
 CHAS. H. ABERCROMBIE, Sec.

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